

HOUSE BILL 9031

By Lamar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 29; Title 33; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and
Title 71, relative to establishing uniform standards
for COVID-19.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019, including a mutation of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019;

(2) "Doula" means an individual employed by a patient to provide support prior to, during, and after the patient's labor and delivery; and

(3) "Hospital" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-11-201.

(b) Notwithstanding a law to the contrary, during a period in which a disaster, emergency, or public health emergency for COVID-19 has been declared, a hospital or other facility licensed under this chapter shall not restrict a pregnant patient from having a doula present with the patient during the stay in the hospital or facility as long as the doula tests negative for COVID-19 and is not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or another virus or communicable disease.

SECTION 2. The department of health is authorized to promulgate rules, including emergency rules, to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.